

Preliminary Amendment
Serial No. 09/674,643
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first resilient return hinge means for connecting the first end of the first link to the sleeve, said first hinge means being organized so that said first link takes up a defined equilibrium position on a direction that makes an acute angle (α) with the axis of the through bore;
base means suitable for receiving the base end of the needle to be protected;
a first crank arm, said first crank arm being defined between first and second ends, said crank arm being of a length " I_1 " defined between its two ends, the length " I_1 " of the first crank arm being no greater than the length " L_1 " of the first link; and
first means for mounting each of said first and second ends of the first crank arm to pivot freely respectively on the second end of the first link and on the base means.
